

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 6th June 1903.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 25th May says that there are reasons to suppose that hostilities are imminent between Turkey and Bulgaria, because both of them are making preparations for war on a large scale. If a war be really declared, the political horizon of Europe will assume a bloody colour.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS  
HABLUL MATEEN,  
May 25th, 1903.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th May says that Pingna is a place of considerable importance on the bank of the river Jabuna in the district of Mymensingh. It contains a school, a post and a telegraph office, a Munsif's court, a zamindar's cutcherry, and many mercantile firms. For a period of about sixty years Pingna also contained a police-station, which was unfortunately removed ten years ago to the railway station Jagannathganj. Thieves, dacoits, and bad characters have become more daring in consequence and are on the increase. Three recent cases of daring robberies are mentioned. Considerable sums of public money are often deposited in the Munsif's Court without proper guard. The authorities ought to remove the police-station to Pingna again.

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 26th, 1903.

3. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 27th May says that Arjun Ghosh, of village Gantla, thana Gokarna, in the district of Murshidabad, was murdered on the 2nd May last, probably by some of his co-villagers. The culprits have not yet been traced. The villagers have conspired to frustrate the investigation that is being made. During the last two years two other murders have been committed in the same village without the offenders being brought to justice. Should the present investigation also prove abortive, punitive police ought to be stationed in the village at the expense of the villagers.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
May 27th, 1903.

4. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 29th May says that thefts, robberies, and dacoities are of daily occurrence at Behala, which is about six miles distant from Calcutta. There is a police outpost in the village, but only six or seven constables are stationed there. These constables are without any sense of duty or responsibility, and have not the courage to make their appearance in the village when needed. The District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police sometimes come to the place for inspection, but they have not as yet made any attempt to remove the grievances of the villagers.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 29th, 1903.

5. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 30th May mentions six cases of cattle-lifting which have occurred in the district of Hooghly during the last few months. In most of these cases the carcasses of the missing cows were found a little way off with their skins taken off. It is suspected that up-country and Muhammadan *muchis* attached to the leather factory in the western portion of the district are the men who have committed the offence, and that they are in league with the police.

BASUMATI,  
May 30th, 1903.

6. The *Kangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 31st May says that Babu Bhuban Mohan Ghosh, an inhabitant of the Haltu village and one of the panchayats of Haltu and a few neighbouring villages, is not on good terms with Babu Tinkari Basu, one of his fellow-villagers. Tinkari Babu's son-in-law, Babu Kalipada Chaudhuri, is a poor man, having a monthly income of Rs. 28 only, and lives with his family in a hut erected on three cottahs of land. But his chaukidari-tax per quarter is 3 annas. On the other hand, the Biswas family, which is composed of three divided families, has to pay 10 annas only quarterly as chaukidari-tax. The Biswas family is well-to-do; it possesses nearly 100 bighas as its joint landed property; one of its members, who has

KANGALAYA,  
May 31st, 1903.



recently died, used to draw a pension of Rs. 18 per month, and another, Gangaram Biswas, who also has recently died, had a money-lending business.

Again, Kshetra Mohan Das, Mahendra Nath Das, and Gopi Nath Das were three brothers. The paternal estate was divided equally among them. Kshetra Mohan died leaving two sons, and Mahendra Nath died leaving one son. The joint-property of the two sons of Kshetra Mohan is therefore equal in amount to the property of the only son of Mahendra Nath. But one of the sons of Kshetra Mohan, Navakishor, has alone to pay a chaukidari-tax of 6 annas per quarter, whilst the only son of Mahendra Nath pays 2 annas and 3 pies only on the same account. What is the cause of this great difference between the chaukidari assessments in the two cases? An answer to this question is to be found in the fact that while Kshetra Mohan lived there was not much love lost between him and Bhuban Babu, the panchayat. Babu Purna Chandra Sarkar's chaukidari tax has been increased from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  annas without any ostensible cause. This man, also, is said to be on bad terms with Bhuban Babu.

Bhuban Babu draws a pension of Rs. 105 per month and has, besides this, some landed property. Babu Nava Pal, another of the panchayats, is also a man in very easy circumstances. But neither of them pays a chaukidari-tax of Re. 1 per month.

RANGALAYA.

7. The same paper says that an Excise Inspector went to the Haltu village in the 24-Parganas district to inquire into a number of complaints regarding the sale and

An excise complaint.

supply of toddy which had appeared in some newspapers, but he did nothing beyond seizing the occasion to make money. In the Sursuna village low class people tap their date-trees for their own drinking. The police knows that they have not got toddy licenses, but nothing is done to check or prevent the practice. It is said that the police has secret understanding with the villagers in the matter.

RANGALAYA.

8. The same paper has the following:—

The Police Commission.

The English Government is governing India in the interests of Englishmen and it must, therefore, do everything in its power to increase the wealth and importance of Englishmen. This is natural, and we resent it simply because we are unable to do the same ourselves.

In the Indian administration the police is, as it were, the hands, feet, and eyes of Englishmen. It should be everybody's care to keep his hands, feet, and eyes in the highest possible state of vigour and efficiency, and this is a duty which is not neglected by the English. The English have to rule India by terror-inspiring vigour tempered with a dash of friendliness, and the police is the incarnation of dread and vigour. Its powers are unlimited and the exercise of those powers unbearable. For various reasons the English Government has vested a portion of these powers in the hands of natives. Natives enter the service of the English Government only to earn their bread, and by entering the police service they incur social odium. The one care of natives in the police service is, therefore, to make money. Corruption is epidemic in the police, and corruption impairs efficiency. Government came to see this and appointed a Commission for the cure of this evil. That Commission is now writing its report.

Quidnuncs give out that the Commission has made proposals for a larger employment of Europeans in the police service and for allowing Europeans in that service higher salaries. This news has dissatisfied all natives. From the Englishman's standpoint we are, however, bound to say that there ought to be a large number of Englishmen among those who will rule this vast empire. The English are foreign rulers, and they are merchants as well as rulers. The English do not trust us, and we do not trust the English. In fact, we are not devoted subjects and we do not look upon British rule as something which is our own. To keep such a people under subjection, Government must rely more upon their own countrymen, and this is what Government is doing. Have we anything to say against this? We must, however, say this to Government, that there is considerable advantage in being able to fry the fish in its own oil. But we have nothing to say if a policy of unqualified selfishness be everywhere applicable.



9. A correspondent writes in the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st June that the pound-keeper of the village Banka Daho, in the district of Bankura, has publicly given out that he will pay one anna for every cow and half an anna for every goat that may be brought to the pound. In these times of distress, wicked people are trying to make money out of this offer. It matters little whether or no any harm is done by the cows grazing in a field; they are seized and sent to the pound.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
June 1st, 1903.

10. Some correspondents write in the same paper to the following effect. The four chaukidars of the village Bibarda have not gone on their rounds for the last three or four months. One of them is too ill to do so, while the plea made by the others is that they have not had their respective beats prescribed for them. It is, however, affirmed by the dafadars of the local thana that the chaukidars go on their rounds regularly. But how can they find out whether the chaukidars do so? For some of the dafadars are foresters and remain in the forest night and day, while others are school-masters, who, after their work in the school, feel too tired to go out to see whether or no the chaukidars are doing their work properly. Thus these dafadars are paid for nothing. Despite all this, the collection of the chaukidari tax is made with great *zulum*. The other day a poor villager had to sell a piece of brass utensil, the only one that he had, to pay up his chaukidari tax.

BANKURA DARPAN.

11. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 2nd June complains of the prevalence of gambling in Mymensingh town and some of the villages in the Mymensingh district. In many places gamblers playing the three-card trick commit great *zulum* on passers-by. Gambling also often gives rise to riots and affrays. It brought about a murder in the Rambhadrapur village. The Gambling Act should be enforced in the district.

CHARU MIHIR,  
June 2nd, 1903.

12. The same paper says that, in response to the petition submitted by the Anjuman Islamia of Mymensingh, the Inspector-General of Police has allowed, subject to the permission of the District Magistrate, Musalmans of the Dacca Division to appear in the Police Sub-Inspectorship Examination. When will similar permission be given to the Hindus of the Division? Such race distinction is not commendable.

CHARU MIHIR.

13. A correspondent of the same paper complains of rowdyism on the part of some *Gundas* living in the Hajirgali village under the Kendra thana in the Mymensingh district. They commit great *zulum* in a bazar which is situate in the neighbouring Sundail village. Within the last two or three months fire was set on many occasions to houses in the bazar, and in *Chaitra* last all the brothels in it were burnt down. Two or three chaukidars and one dafadar live near the place. It is therefore a wonder how all this occurs there.

CHARU MIHIR.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

14. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th May writes as follows:—  
Mr. Roe, the District Judge of Burdwan, is a true type of a young, inexperienced, hot-headed District Judge, as sketched by Mr. Justice Rampini in the course of his late speech in the Indian Legislative Council. "I doubt," said Mr. Rampini, "whether in any other province there are such junior officers filling the posts of District Judges as in Bengal. This is a serious matter, as the District Judges of the present day are necessarily officers of less experience than they were twenty years ago, and the less experience an officer has the less quickly he can work, and the greater risk there is of his decisions being wrong and requiring to be set right in appeal." Before this remark had had time to lose its freshness, Mr. Roe had to appear before its author to explain certain matters in connection with the Kalna murder case, in which the young District Judge had given proof of want of ability and judicial tact. Since he was appointed

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA-BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
May 27th, 1903.



District Judge of Burdwan, Mr. Roe has tried two murder cases—the Sangramgarh murder case and the Kalna murder case, which has been already referred to. In the former case, in which the accused person was an Englishman named Martin, Mr. Roe showed an anxiety, quite unbecoming a judge, to acquit the accused. But in the latter case he showed equal anxiety to get the accused person convicted of murder, and this anxiety on his part made him forget himself to such an extent that every line of the report with which he submitted the papers of the case to the High Court betrays the hand of a reckless man possessing no experience and altogether devoid of common sense. In this report he gave a translation of the deposition of the accused person before a Deputy Magistrate and the translation contained the statement that the accused confessed that she had concealed the dead body of the deceased in her house, but, as a matter of fact, no such confession is contained in the original deposition. Most probably Mr. Roe had not read the original deposition, but in his anxiety to get the accused person convicted of murder he invented the story of a confession. All this is unique in the history of the administration of justice in the country.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
May 27th, 1903.

15. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 27th May says two students of the local school went to the Collector-ate to look up the results of the Entrance examination published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. The Collector, probably suspecting their motive, handed them over to the Court Sub-Inspector and released them only when, on inquiry, he found them to be really school-boys. Who is responsible for their unnecessary detention?

NAVA YUG,  
May 30th, 1903.

16. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 30th May writes as follows:—

The Honorary Magistrates of the Calcutta Police Court.

By a notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* the Government has taken away first class powers from all the Honorary Magistrates of the Calcutta Police Court except ten. Babu J. C. Dutt, O. C. Ganguli, Saligram Sing, and Nobin Chand Baral are amongst those whose first class powers have been taken away. This is not viewed with satisfaction by the public, for these gentlemen possess a reputation for judicial ability quite as great as that enjoyed by the Honorary Magistrates who have been left in possession of their first class powers. Such powers have also been withdrawn from Mr. R. D. Mehta. But the public, far from being dissatisfied with the restriction of his powers, rather approve of it. It is believed that this Parsee merchant has acquired an influence in the metropolis which is rather excessive. His conduct towards the rate-payers of Maniktola as the Chairman of their Municipality gave great dissatisfaction. On the Bench his defective knowledge of the Bengali tongue was responsible for much of his unpopularity as a Magistrate, while his methods of administering justice were open to objection.

CHARU MIHIR,  
June 2nd, 1903.

17. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 2nd June says that some of the

The Deputy Magistrates of Mymensingh town.

Deputy Magistrates of Mymensingh town are in the habit of holding their Courts till 9 P.M. This causes great inconvenience and hardship to pleaders and parties. If the Deputy Magistrates will mind coming to Court earlier and spending less time in their tiffin rooms, they will not find it necessary to hold their Courts up to such a late hour.

(d)—Education.

SUHRID,  
May 14th, 1903.

18. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 14th May says that Dr. P. K. Ray has

Dr. P. K. Ray and the Commissioner of the Dacca Division.

been appointed Principal of the Dacca College. But Mr. Savage, the Commissioner of the Dacca Division, who dislikes natives, asked for a European Principal. There can be no doubt that with Dr. Ray as Principal the Dacca College will very soon attain the highest degree of efficiency. It remains to be seen what arrangement the authorities will make.

BASUMATI,  
May 30th, 1903.

19. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 30th May says that it was announced

Publication of the Text-Book Committee's list of text-books.

by Government that a list of text-books selected by the Text-Book Committee would be published in the *Calcutta Gazette* every year in January. Later on the Government directed the publication of the list at shorter intervals. But



it seems that this direction is not being obeyed this year. The publication of the list of text-books in January is not of much use, since many schools begin their work much earlier, and text-books recommended in the list can only be used in succeeding July. The authors have to wait for a year and-a-half before their books are either accepted or rejected.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

20. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 15th May writes as follows:—

SANSODHINI,  
May 15th, 1903.

Assessment of the municipal tax  
in Chittagong town.

The municipal tax on houses has been very unfairly assessed in the town of Chittagong. In some instances the tax assessed upon a poor man's house is higher than that assessed upon a house owned by a rich man. Mr. Good, the Chairman of the Municipality, asked for permission from the Commissioners to re-assess the houses in the town and commenced the work of assessment in anticipation of sanction. His assessment was indeed too high, but it was fair. The Commissioners, however, refused the permission which he asked for, so he has discontinued the work. If, however, a re-assessment is to take place, three of the nominated Commissioners ought to be entrusted with the task. Mr. Good may be associated with them. The assessment made by such a body may be expected to be fair, since they are not likely to show bias or favour in the discharge of their duty.

21. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 31st May writes as follows:—

RANGALAYA,  
May 31st, 1903.

The Calcutta improvement scheme.

Of the 7 crores of rupees which are required for the carrying out of the Calcutta improvement scheme, Government has stipulated to pay 50 lakhs only, the remaining sum of six crores and-a-half having to be paid by the rate-payers of Calcutta. If by incurring this enormous expenditure of money they can secure better conservancy, better water-supply, better privy service, improved communications, prevention of the accumulation of smoke, coal gas, sewer gas, &c., in the streets at night, prevention of plague and malaria, and expulsion of prostitutes from respectable quarters, then they will consider the money well spent. But this is not to be, and instead of any attempt being made to carry out improvements like these, 16½ miles of new road will be constructed, the whole length of the new roads will be lighted by electricity, and large buildings will be erected in these roads to be let out on hire. There will surely be public agitation against the proposed measures, but to no effect; because—

(1) The rate-payers of Calcutta are not really panic-stricken. It was only once that they were really so, and on that occasion Government had to give way.

(2) The rate-payers of Calcutta will say lots of things, but they will do nothing. During the agitation against the Calcutta Municipal Bill, Babu Narendra Nath Sen proposed the formation of a Central Rate-payers' Association, but nothing came of the proposal.

(3) It is the desire of all European merchants in this country to turn Calcutta into a city fit for the residence of European tradesmen only, and captivate foreign merchants by the beauty and grandeur of its exterior. The people do not really know how to successfully agitate against this desire on the part of the mercantile community.

(4) The rate-payers of the town do not know what is good for them, or if they know it, they do not wish to act up to their knowledge. How many house-owners in Calcutta would consent to the demolition of insufficiently lighted and ill-ventilated rooms in their houses?

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

22. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 26th May writes as follows:—

BIKAS,  
May 26th, 1903.

Settlement  
Backergunge.

It is fortunate that Mr. Jack, the Assistant Settlement Officer of Camp Ganpara, Kashipur, Barisal, who had hitherto been conducting himself in a very high-handed manner, has now become more considerate in his dealings with the raiyats. The people to be dealt with in settlement operations are mostly illiterate cultivators, who are generally unable to render much help in the solution of intricacies created by ignorant and whimsical amins in khana-puri work. No doubt these cultivators often waste the time of the officers by



their importunities and irrelevant questions, yet they ought to be very patiently dealt with; otherwise there would be the risk of a failure of justice. Although Mr. Jack is now very considerate, his underlings are not so, and often use abusive language to those that come to them to transact business. The selection of the site of the camp has not been satisfactory. There is no bazar at Ganpara, thus making it impossible for the raiyats to procure food. There are no roads for coming to Ganpara from Shibpasa and Raypasa. There is another settlement camp at Charbaria near the town. People living in the parts of the country adjacent to Ganpara have oftentimes to come to the Charbaria camp, while those living near the latter camp often find it necessary to visit the former. This causes great inconvenience, which could have been avoided by a more judicious distribution of the mauzas.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

SAMAY,  
May 29th, 1903.

23. Some correspondents writing in the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 29th May say that, intending to go to Parbatipur, they arrived at the Kaliaganj station, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, one day long before the hour when the train to Parbatipur was timed to arrive at that station. There were about eighty passengers, but the booking clerk opened his office only 10 minutes before the arrival of the train. All the passengers, except eight or ten, failed to book themselves and so could not avail themselves of the train. The opening of the booking office at least one hour before the arrival of a passenger train ought to be made compulsory by the Railway authorities.

BASUMATI,  
May 30th, 1903.

24. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 30th May says that the third class accommodation provided by the Howrah-Seakhala Light Railway is insufficient. The daily passengers, who mostly travel third class, have often to use goods waggons. If any one of them enter an intermediate compartment for want of accommodation, he is made to pay excess fare and a fine. The Railway authorities should either provide more third class carriages or allow third class passengers to travel in the intermediate class cars without charging any excess fare or fine when the third class accommodation provided is inadequate.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
June 1st, 1903.

25. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st June says that the station buildings built by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway at Bankura are far from what might be desired. The platform is too low. One has to jump twice to get into the cars from the platform, and it is impossible for female passengers to enter the cars without help. The platform for passengers should be raised at least as high as the existing goods platform. As the station buildings are small and are covered with corrugated iron, the raising of the floor of the whole station will not involve much expense.

PALLIVASI,  
June 3rd, 1903.

26. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 3rd June says that at all the intermediate steamer stations on the Kalna-Santipur line passengers experience considerable inconvenience in alighting from and getting into the steamer. Ladies cannot get in or get out without violence to their modesty, while it is dangerous for children to do so. The supply of a few wooden ladders is all that is required to remove the inconvenience.

(h)—*General.*

PALLIVASI,  
June 3rd, 1903.

27. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 3rd June writes as follows:—

Income-tax assessments in the mufassal.

It is believed in the mufassal that, acting under secret instructions from the district authorities, the income-tax assessors are estimating at one thousand per year the income of those whose annual income formerly used to be estimated at five hundred rupees. The way in which the tax is being assessed would seem to furnish some justification for this belief. There is no doubt that attempts are being made to make out that those legal practitioners and petty



tradesmen who were placed in the lowest class of assesseees under the Income-tax Act have had their income increased to an extent which makes them still liable to the tax, although the limit of taxable income has been raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 a year.

If it is really the object of Government to remit the tax in the case of those whose annual income is less than Rs. 1,000, it behoves it to discourage such oppressive proceedings on the part of the income-tax assessors.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

28. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th May says that Lord

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 26th, 1903.

Curzon's projected visit to Cashmere is a cause of grave apprehension. A little while ago there was a rumour to the effect that the Maharaja of Cashmere would be given the district of Sialkote in exchange for Cashmere, as the possession of that State had become necessary for the defence of the frontier against the approach of the Russians. After Lord Curzon's tour in Hyderabad, the Nizam lost the Berars for ever. It is to be hoped that the Maharaja of Cashmere will not have to suffer any similar loss after the completion of the Viceregal visit to his State.

29. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 30th May has heard that Lord

BHARAT MITRA,  
May 30th, 1903.

Curzon will pay a visit to Cashmere by December next, but no one knows anything of the object of that visit. For the final settlement of the Berars question, Lord Curzon had to personally interview the Nizam. Some such question, perhaps, is the cause of His Excellency's proposed visit to Cashmere. Of course, he is not going to dethrone the present Maharaja, as a native paper says, because in his Jaypur speech he declared himself a well-wisher of all native Rajas and Maharajas.

30. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 31st May writes as follows:—

RANGALAYA,  
May 31st, 1903.

Even so far back as the time when the Maharaja of Cashmere came to Calcutta and became the guest of Government, we had an uncomfortable suspicion in our mind that there was something wrong somewhere. We now hear that the Maharaja will probably be compelled to abdicate. The Maharaja was some years ago compelled to sign a letter of abdication. The abdication was, however, declared by Government at that time to be a voluntary act. But the Maharaja wrote to the Viceroy that he was not prepared to abdicate. It is said that Lord Curzon will now dethrone the Maharaja on the strength of this letter of abdication.

Why should the man seek a pretext for dethroning the Maharaja of Cashmere or Indore, the slightest movement of whose finger is enough to bring low all the highest heads in India? If the continuance of Cashmere under the rule of a Sikh prince is opposed to British interests, the sun of happiness of Cashmere will soon set. The autocratic and powerful English Government will do just as it pleases, and it is in its power to do just as it pleases. We have no right to complain against this. What we complain against is that Government should try to make fools of us. Why was Holkar ruined? Because the English willed that it should be so. Why should Cashmere be ruined? Because the English will it. This is what we understand and what we wish to understand. We shall never forget that we are a subject people and never forget to keep dinning the fact. Nor shall we forget ourselves or let others forget that the English are the ruling race. For mercy's sake, O Viceroy, do not play any trick with us.

Yet, after all, we cannot ease our pain. Though incompetent, worthless, and luxurious, the Indian Princes and Chiefs are men belonging to our own country, race, and creed. We have not seen Travancore, Cashmere, Indore, and Panna—we have seen but little of India. Still these are names that thrill our hearts with delight and awaken blissful memories. Though as regards appearance, language, and costume they and we are as the poles asunder, yet we cannot but constantly feel that they are ours. That is why, though sure of the annexation of Cashmere by the English Government, we are



unable to console ourselves. We say all this only because the English Government has graciously granted us liberty of speech.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
May 27th, 1903.

31. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 27th May says that for want of rain in the proper time, the *aus* crop was not grown this season in the district of Murshidabad. The country on the east of the *Bhagirathi* depends mainly on this crop, the total failure of which will consequently produce severe distress. Nor has the outturn of the mango, which forms one of the staple crops of the district, been satisfactory.

PALLIVASI,  
June 3rd, 1903.

32. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 3rd June describes the severe scarcity prevailing in some of the villages under the Galsi thana in the district of Burdwan. People are starving and are unable to procure work. Food for cattle is also scarce. The Government or the District Board should grant tuccavi advances for the repairs of tanks and other reservoirs of water, for such advances would greatly help agricultural operations.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 26th, 1903

33. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th May has the following:—  
Up to the end of Musalman rule, the Rajas and the bulk of the zamindars had always to remain prepared for war. But the British Government has now made itself entirely responsible for the defence of the empire, with the result that the Rajas and zamindars have sunk into the lowest depths of self-indulgence, to the complete loss of all martial qualities. But martial qualities are as much needed now as ever, only their sphere of action is different according to the new requirements of the times.

And what is the new sphere in which martial qualities should manifest themselves in these days? The arbitrary principles on which the Indian administration is at present conducted take no account of the views of the Indian people, even in matters vitally affecting their interests, and under the operation of these principles, the feudatory and tributary princes are gradually being deprived of their powers. The Proclamation of 1858 has proved a mere delusive document. The commercial and manufacturing interests of England have crippled Indian commerce and industries, while in South Africa and Australia Indians are treated as cats and dogs. The Indian Government, in spite of every wish to do so, is unable to protect the interests of India in these matters on account of Parliament, which, in its turn, is guided solely by the wishes of the English public. The result is that Indians are becoming poorer every day, and the poorer the country is getting the more loudly is Government proclaiming the wealth of India before the civilised world. The present policy and constitution of the Indian Government should, therefore, be so changed as to prove more favourable to Indian interests, while care should be taken to improve Indian commerce and industries.

This is the new sphere in which Indian chiefs, princes, and zamindars should now manifest their martial qualities. What is required of them is not that they should fight with arms, but fight foreign capitalists with the aid of their own capital and win and protect political rights by constitutional agitation. This national warfare is now inevitable. Let Rajas and zamindars gird themselves up, and fight this battle. The securing of the national preservation and the national progress with the aid of capital is the proper function of the military caste in these days. He who will shrink from this battle is a coward. The high-minded Tata is the best specimen of a Raja and a warrior in these days.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA-BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
27th, 1903.

34. The *Sri-Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th May says that it is a sight to see officials going from door to door a-begging. It may be hard to believe that high European officials actually took



to begging in order to raise subscriptions for the Victoria Memorial Fund, but it is nevertheless true. People really wonder how Lord Curzon could collect within a short time such an enormous sum of money for the Victoria Memorial. Most of the subscribers to the fund were doubtless loyal to the backbone, but no one would believe that they subscribed so lavishly of their own free will. How was then the money raised? One or two instances will show how it was done. Last year a certain Kayastha zamindar of Calcutta received a letter from a high official requesting him to see the *Latsaheb* at his residence on a certain date. The zamindar accordingly went to the *Latsaheb's* residence at the appointed time, and there he met the official from whom he had received the invitation letter. What followed took him aback. The official introduced him to the *Latsaheb*, saying that he, whose name was such and such and who was a respectable zamindar of Calcutta, wished to subscribe Rs. 25,000 to the Victoria Memorial Fund. The *Latsaheb* thanked him for his liberal public spirit. The dumbfounded zamindar did not, and had not the courage to contradict, and on the next day the newspapers made the announcement that such and such a zamindar had subscribed Rs. 25,000 to the Victoria Memorial Fund.

On another occasion during the last year a high European official paid a visit to Bhagulpur town and requested, by means of letters, two respectable and wealthy zamindars of the place, one a Bengali and the other an up-country man, to see him in the *dak bungalow*. The zamindars were well acquainted with the methods followed by high officials in raising subscriptions. The up-country gentleman took no notice of the letter he received, while the Bengali zamindar wrote in reply that as he was too ill to go to the *sahab*, the latter might come to him if he liked. On the next morning the *sahab* went to the Bengali zamindar's residence, but he could in no way get an interview with the zamindar who, he was told, was bedridden and could not be seen by outsiders. Having no other alternative left, the *sahab* told the zamindar's principal officer, who was there at that time, that he had come to give his master the valuable information that, in preparing its next list for the New Year's Day honours, Government would take into special consideration the case of those who would have subscribed Rs. 50,000 each to the Victoria Memorial Fund, and that his master, who was by the way a very loyal subject, ought not to lose this golden opportunity of acquiring a title at a cost of only Rs. 50,000. With this advice the *sahab* went away. A few days after this the zamindar received a telegram from him reminding him of the opportunity of acquiring a title with Rs. 50,000, or at least Rs. 25,000. In reply, the zamindar wired to the *sahab* to the effect that he was sorry he could not subscribe anything to the Victoria Memorial Fund, and that he had placed a sum of money in the hands of the Divisional Commissioner to be devoted to works of public utility in Bhagalpur, and, lastly, that he did not want any titles.

35. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 29th May writes as follows:—

"Satanic allegations in the *Prachar* newspaper."

The *Prachar* is a Christian monthly of insignificant size. Its only business, it would seem, is to abuse people belonging to different religious persuasions. It always abounds in filthy matter. The mean-minded editor of the *Prachar* is a disgrace to journalism. For some time past the paper has been publishing a perverted story of Muhammad's life under the heading "মুহম্মদ চরিত্র" (The Life of Muhammad), in which abuses are being showered on the prophet. The last May issue of the paper writes:—"It is this Muhammad whom Brahmos call an ideal man. Shame to the Brahmos! Fie upon the Brahmo writer who desires to place Jesus Christ and that heartless man, Muhammad, on the same altar!" The proper medicine for a writer like this is a sound whipping. Who but a Satan can write in this fashion! The editor of the *Prachar* has much to learn at the feet of Brahmos.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 29th, 1903.

36. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st June does not understand

Fondness of European officers for salaams.

why European officers are so very fond of receiving salaams from natives. In some cases they are found to get angry if natives fail to show them that sign of respect. The present Subdivisional Officer of Sitamarhi is an instance in point. One morning in the course of his walk he met the son of the local Subordinate Judge who was riding on horseback. When he saw the boy pass by him without making his salaam, he at once called him and compelled him to do so.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
June 1st, 1903.



ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAN,  
May 18th, 1903.

37. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 18th May says that Mr. Salkeld, the Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj, Sylhet, is greatly harassing the inhabitants of the place. Recently he made a number of respectable zamindars special constables for no other reason than that some of their raiyats had been accused and convicted of having committed an insignificant riot.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 6th June, 1903.

*Offg. Bengali Translator.*